What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for configuring a database, comprising:

requesting database configuration information from a directory server that stores configuration information for a plurality of database instances;

in response to the request, receiving the database configuration information from the directory server; and

automatically configuring the database with the database configuration information received from the directory server;

whereby the database server can be installed without manual configuration by a user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the database is structured as a database server, and wherein the database configuration information includes service-related settings for the database server.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the database configuration option can include:

an audit trail;

a security model;

a security protocol parameter;

a maximum sessions parameter;

a database block size;

an optimization mode parameter; and

an OLAP features parameter.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration information can include an Access Control List (ACL), wherein the ACL lists objects and services available on the database server and which hosts have permissions to use the objects and the services.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the directory server is Highly Available (HA).

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising caching a local copy of the configuration information to facilitate configuration of the database when the database cannot connect to the directory server.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a request for resources at the database from a user;

determining if the user is an enterprise user;

if so, querying the directory server for a user profile associated with the user;

receiving the user profile from the directory server; and

allocating resources to the user based on parameters specified in the user profile.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the user profile can include:

a CPU quota for the user;

a disk quota for the user;

a scheduling priority for the user; and

a read/write/execute permission for the user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the database configuration information can define a Security Admin (SA) role for the database.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the database server periodically queries the directory server for updated database configuration information for the database.

11. A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for configuring a database, the method comprising:

requesting database configuration information from a directory server that stores configuration information for a plurality of database instances;

in response to the request, receiving the database configuration information from the directory server; and

automatically configuring the database with the database configuration information received from the directory server;

whereby the database server can be installed without manual configuration by a user.

12. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the database is structured as a database server, and wherein the database configuration information includes service-related settings for the database server.

13. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the database configuration option can include:

an audit trail;

a security model;

a security protocol parameter;

a maximum sessions parameter;

a database block size;

an optimization mode parameter; and

an OLAP features parameter.

14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the configuration information can include an Access Control List (ACL), wherein the ACL lists objects and services available on the database server and which hosts have permissions to use the objects and the services.

15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the directory server is Highly Available (HA).

16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises caching a local copy of the configuration information to facilitate configuration of the database when the database cannot connect to the directory server.

17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request for resources at the database from a user;

determining if the user is an enterprise user;

if so, querying the directory server for a user profile associated with the user;

receiving the user profile from the directory server; and

allocating resources to the user based on parameters specified in the user profile.

18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, wherein the user profile can include:

a CPU quota for the user;

a disk quota for the user;

a scheduling priority for the user; and

a read/write/execute permission for the user.

19. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the database configuration information can define a Security Admin (SA) role for the database.

20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the database server periodically queries the directory server for updated database configuration information for the database.

21. An apparatus for configuring a database, comprising:

a request mechanism configured to request database configuration information from a directory server that stores configuration information for a plurality of database instances;

a receiving mechanism configured to receive the database configuration information from the directory server in response to the request; and

a configuration mechanism configured to automatically configure the database with the database configuration information received from the directory server.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the database is structured as a database server, and wherein the database configuration information includes service-related settings for the database server.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the database configuration option can include:

an audit trail;

a security model;

a security protocol parameter;

a maximum sessions parameter;

a database block size;

an optimization mode parameter; and

an OLAP features parameter.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the configuration information can include an Access Control List (ACL), wherein the ACL lists objects and services available on the database server and which hosts have permissions to use the objects and the services.

25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the directory server is Highly Available (HA).

26. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a caching mechanism configured to cache a local copy of the configuration information to facilitate configuration of the database when the database cannot connect to the directory server.

27. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

a second receiving mechanism configured to receive a request for resources at the database from a user;

a determination mechanism configured to determine if the user is an enterprise user;

a querying mechanism configured to query the directory server for a user profile associated with the user if the user is an enterprise user;

a profile mechanism configured to receive the user profile from the directory server; and

an allocation mechanism configured to allocate resources to the user based on parameters specified in the user profile.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the user profile can include:

a CPU quota for the user;

a disk quota for the user;

a scheduling priority for the user; and

a read/write/execute permission for the user.

29. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the database configuration information can define a Security Admin (SA) role for the database.

30. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the database server periodically queries the directory server for updated database configuration information for the database.